Note to Leader: Print and/or photocopy this resource for your use. Fill in the blank spaces in the script by asking the children for the type of word suggested under each blank.

Materials: Pencil

**Scene 1: The Road**

One day Jonah was walking along _______________ his _______________ when God spoke to him.

verb ending in “ing”  
noun

“Jonah, I want you to go to _______________. Tell the people there that I am not pleased with their behavior. Tell them they have to stop _______________ and _______________.

bad behavior ending in “ing”  
bad behavior ending in “ing”

Jonah did not want to go to that city. He didn’t want to tell the people there that God was not pleased with them. So instead, Jonah decided to run away—far away to _______________.

name of a place far away

**Scene 2: The Ocean**

Jonah went to the ocean and found sailors and a boat that could take him far away. “_______________!

exclamation

God won’t find me here,” Jonah exclaimed. He went down inside the boat and fell asleep. While he was sleeping, a _______________ storm came up.

synonym for “bad”

The waves were _______________. The sea was rocking and rolling. “_______________!”

synonym for “big”  
exclamation

yelled the sailors. “We’re going to drown!” One of the sailors woke up Jonah. The sailor was surprised that Jonah could sleep through the _______________ storm. Jonah saw the storm and felt that the storm was his fault because he had run away from God. He told the sailors that they needed to throw him overboard to stop the storm. The sailors did as Jonah wished. “_______________!” Jonah cried out as he fell into the sea.
Scene 3: The Big Fish
As soon as Jonah fell into the sea, a _____________________ fish swallowed Jonah. _____________________!

Jonah sat in the belly of the big fish and realized several things. First, Jonah realized that the inside of a big fish is very _____________________ and _____________________! Then he realized that he could not run away from God. God was still with Jonah, even though Jonah was in the belly of the _____________________ fish.

Jonah prayed to God. Jonah knew what he had to do. He had to go to _____________________.

The fish spit Jonah out on dry land.

Scene 4: The City
Once again, God said, “Go!” This time Jonah said, “ ________________.”

So Jonah went to the city and told the people that God wanted them to stop _____________________

and ___________________. All the people of the city listened to Jonah and said, “ ________________,

we have not been living the way God wants us to live. Let’s worship God and live the way that will please God.”

God was _________________. Jonah, on the other hand, was quite angry.

He expected God to destroy the city because of the people’s bad behavior. Jonah was angry because God was a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Jonah felt that the people in the city were not getting what they deserved; in fact, they were receiving God’s grace and love.
Jonah Script (continued)

Scene 5: The Field

Pouting, Jonah went and sat down in a field and spoke to God. “I went to a lot of trouble and you didn’t even get mad at the people in the city, much less destroy them as you said you would. What’s up with that?”

Then the sun came out and it got very hot. Jonah said, “__________________ !”

exclamation

It’s hot! I’ll probably die right here and God won’t even care.” God, being a caring God, made a plant grow and the plant gave Jonah some shade. Jonah was ________________ .

synonym for “happy”

The next day, the plant died and Jonah was miserable again. He was also angry with God again. “I needed that plant, God. Why did you kill it? Why are you doing this to me?” God said to Jonah, “Why are you angry with me? You didn’t make the plant grow. The people of the city are my children, too. Shouldn’t I care about them?”
Jonah Puppet Pattern

Note to Leader: Print and/or photocopy this resource on card stock. Cut out the pattern pieces and trace them onto black poster board. Cut out the pieces and attach the arms and legs with metal paper fasteners as shown below. Tape a wooden skewer to the body and one arm as shown. If two people are available to manipulate Jonah, add a wooden skewer to each leg. Have the puppeteer(s) practice moving the Jonah puppet. (If you use a screen size other than the 16” x 20” suggested on “Puppet Theater” [Resource 2, page 12] you will need to adjust the size of the Jonah shadow puppet.)

Materials: Black poster board, scissors, metal paper fasteners, wooden skewers, masking tape